



DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE DISTRICT

*OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR
FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

September 18, 2001

“Throughout this week, we’ve been able to assess the unthinkable loss of life and destruction in New York and in Virginia. We can only thank God that our city was not the target of a similar event. Our prayers go out to those who have been killed and injured and to their families and friends.”

Mayor Anthony A. Williams

We’re moving back home. We’re improving our taxis. We’re improving our community. Like many of you, we’re returning to the business of the District after the tragic events of last week. Here’s a survey of what’s happening.

WE’RE HOME...ALMOST!

Our move to the Wilson Building will be this Friday, September 21st. On that day, phones and email will be down—but should be back to normal by Monday. Look forward to seeing you all in our new home—1350 Pennsylvania Avenue!

TAXICAB TESTING IS BACK. AND IT’S BETTER THAN EVER.

On Monday, September 10th, the District’s Taxicab Commission opened its newly-equipped testing center for individuals seeking to become licensed taxicab and limousine drivers. The testing center features 20 state-of-the-art interactive testing stations—nearly 75 percent more than the center's prior capacity. The new equipment was installed at a cost of \$45,000—a savings of \$10,000 from the original projections.

Tests will be also offered more frequently than in the past and can now be scheduled in advance to continue the Mayor’s commitment to premium customer service and to eliminate the long lines at the test site. The taxicab test will be offered to 160 individuals per week -- a ten-fold increase over prior testing levels; the limousine test will be offered to 40 individuals per week -- a five-fold increase.

With the center open, staff will concentrate on testing those individuals who have been waiting since testing was halted in February. The Commission expects to test all those individuals within the first two weeks of operation, allowing new applicants to schedule tests by September 24th.

“The opening of this center demonstrates my continued commitment to provide, efficient, high quality government service to this industry and others,” said Mayor Anthony A. Williams.

NOTABLES AND QUOTABLES

- The 9th Annual DCBIA Community Improvement Day took place on Saturday, September 15th. Mayor Williams and Deputy Mayor Price rolled up their sleeves with 500 volunteers to begin \$1 million of renovations at Berry Farms Recreation Center. The improvements include equipment replacements and repairs, new landscaping and exterior improvements.

- *Mayor Williams' Ward 8 Town Hall Meeting* has been postponed—and will be rescheduled in the near future. The meeting will focus on the positive change we've seen in Ward 8, and the areas where more change is still necessary. Topics of discussion: clean and safe neighborhoods, housing and economic development and children, youth and families.

AND DON'T FORGET...

From Mayor Williams' Statement on September 11th

"I want to take a moment to thank the residents of the District, District employees and the press for staying calm, keeping our streets clear, cooperating with authorities to help us through this difficult time. I appreciate it and so do all of us here in the District government. We do have a need for blood donations to keep our hospitals in a state of readiness and help them meet their immediate needs. If you are able to donate please call the Red Cross at (202) 872-1304 or at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE."

Looking to do Business Across the Seas? Then the International CEO Forum is For You!

This International CEO Forum is coordinated by German American Business Agency (GABA) and sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology. The goal: to facilitate business relationships between German and American companies. Seventeen of Germany's most innovative information technology, tele-communications and bio-informatics companies have been selected to attend. They will be looking for potential partners such as you.

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2001
Location: Hilton McLean Tyson's Corner
7920 Jones Branch Drive
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 761-5200

If you have any questions, feel free to call Emily Gildersleeve at (703) 836-6120

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